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Build a life of opportunity in construction

Information for construction workers interested in moving to Alberta





Alberta – for a life of opportunity in construction

“Now the view from my kitchen is of snow-capped mountains, it’s just so beautiful.”

Located in western Canada, Alberta is well known for its thriving energy industry, outstanding scenery and cosmopolitan cities. As a result of the development of its vast energy resources, Alberta has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. With an abundance of construction opportunities immediately available, Alberta is a great destination for construction workers.

Alberta’s high standard of living and excellent quality of life are supported by an excellent public healthcare system, world-class state-funded education and a huge range of leisure activities.

Whether skiing in the Rocky Mountains, hiking through spectacular natural landscapes or experiencing the many restaurants, cultural events and nightspots – Alberta has it all.

Alberta is a great place to live. Whether you choose to live in a small town or a big city, the air is clean and you’ll find some of the world’s best outdoor activities on your doorstep – hiking, skiing, kayaking, camping, to name a few. Alberta’s cities have an array of museums, theatres, restaurants, concerts and sporting events, while small towns buzz with clubs, festivals and events reflecting their historical past, ethnic roots and local industries.

Alberta is experiencing the strongest period of economic growth ever recorded by a Canadian province. It is the world’s second-largest exporter and the fourth-largest producer of natural gas. Alberta’s oil sands are estimated to hold more oil than all the Middle East reserves combined. Oil, gas and natural resource companies are growing and expanding their investments and infrastructure in the Alberta oil sands and the growth in the energy sector is expected to continue, translating into a strong, sustainable economy and ongoing demand for qualified workers.

By moving to Alberta, you will be joining a vibrant economy with a very healthy job market. For construction workers in particular, there has rarely been a more exciting destination to build a new life.



Living in Alberta – for a better quality of life

"Here we have the open space... the opportunity to go skiing, or hiking ...there's so much to do here."

At home

Albertans enjoy a high standard of living with no provincial sales tax and the lowest income tax rate of any province in Canada. Owning your own home can be a reality whatever your stage in life. Houses are more affordable and spacious than the UK and are fitted with all the modern conveniences you need. Albertans are also known for their friendliness and welcoming nature, and with a range of programmes designed to help you settle in, it is easy to feel right at home in your new community.

Alberta has two international airports located in Edmonton and Calgary and regional airports located throughout the province. Flights to the UK, Europe and other international destinations depart daily.

At leisure

Alberta has everything to offer those who love an outdoor life. It is home to the famous Banff National Park and Jasper National Park as well as 500 provincial parks, wilderness, recreation and other protected areas for you to explore and enjoy. The range of stunning natural landscapes rivals anywhere else in the world, and provides the perfect backdrop for activities like walking, riding, cycling, canoeing or golf – all within easy reach of the major cities.

In winter, Alberta offers unparalleled skiing and snowboarding. Famous for dry, fluffy snow and brilliant cloudless winter skies, ski resorts in the Canadian Rockies are beyond compare. The province is known for world-class ski resorts such as Sunshine

Village, Lake Louise, Marmot Basin, Norquay and Nakiska. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also popular sports enjoyed throughout the area.

If it's nightlife you're after, then the cosmopolitan cities of Calgary and Edmonton have a huge range of bars and restaurants with international cuisine. Music festivals and performance venues are regularly played by the biggest names in show business. Both Edmonton and Calgary are proud of their performing arts centres, which are home to several theatre groups, opera companies and symphony orchestras.

The family

When you move to Alberta, you and your family will have access to everything the province has to offer in terms of employment, healthcare and education. Healthcare and public education systems in Alberta are world-class – accessible to your whole family free of charge. As a skilled worker, your spouse or common-law partner will be eligible for an open work permit and may work for any employer, in any occupation.

The weather

Alberta's climate has four distinct seasons: a pleasant spring, a hot summer, a colourful autumn and a snowy winter. Daylight hours range from 16 to 18 hours in June to six to eight hours in December. In the summer, daytime highs average 20 °C to 25 °C and in winter -15 °C to -5 °C. Annual average precipitation ranges from 30 cm in southeastern Alberta to 40 cm in northern Alberta.



Alberta construction – a thriving industry

Alberta's construction industry ranges from small-scale house building to billion dollar industrial projects.

Benefitting from robust oil and gas activity in recent years, Alberta has seen growth in all areas of construction including infrastructure and residential projects. And the future is looking good – the industry is expected to continue growing for the foreseeable future. It is a thriving industry.

With such a wide range of projects, there are opportunities for work throughout the province in a large range of roles. Within Alberta, the construction sector is made up of both general and speciality contracting firms and trades people. Beyond the core construction projects, there is also enormous growth in infrastructure management, renovation and maintenance.

Alberta is also rapidly becoming a centre for innovation in construction, developing new and effective technologies to enable it to meet the environmental and engineering challenges faced in sustaining the scope and pace of demand for construction services.

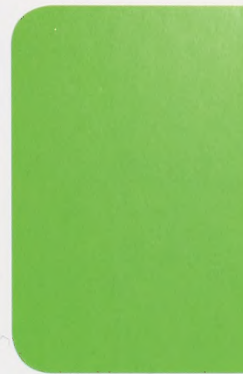
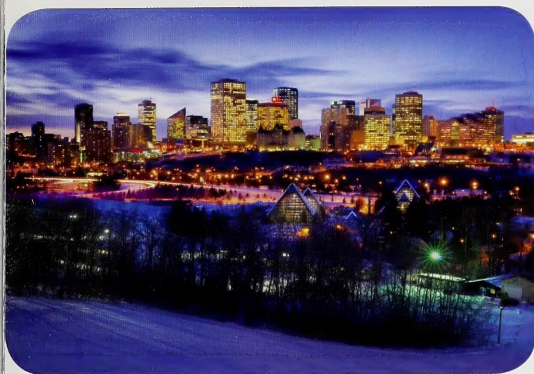
Moving to Alberta will mean you will join like-minded individuals who thrive on a challenge!

Gary, Plumber (Calgary, Alberta)

"We moved to Canada earlier in 2008. We first went to an emigration show, where we spoke to some people from Alberta on the stands. After talking to them, Alberta and Calgary just felt right. I don't know what made our minds up, whether it was the low house prices, the good work options or just being close to the mountains – it just felt right!

I think the most difficult thing was the terminology. But now that I've been here for a few months, it's like I've been here for years. You pick it all up really quickly.

Working in Alberta is so laid back. I have found that I can start and finish when I want as long as I get the job done."



Alberta construction wants you!

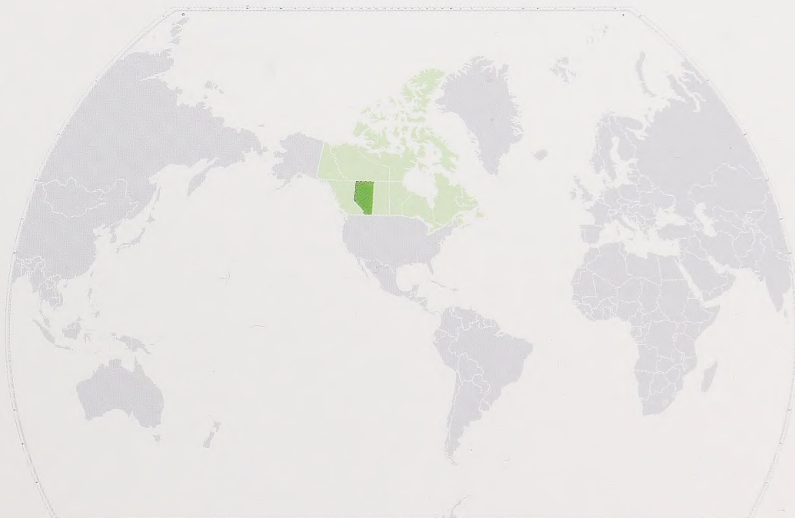
The sustained growth in Alberta's oil and gas sector is at the heart of the economic boom in the province. To support the major commercial projects, infrastructure and housing needed for the expanding population, experienced workers across all building trades are in demand.

Typical roles include:

- Carpenters
- Construction labourers
- Crane operators
- Industrial electricians
- Roofers
- Pipe-fitters
- Steam-fitters
- Welders
- Manufacturing and processing labourers
- Heavy duty equipment mechanics
- Iron workers
- Machinists
- Long-distance truck drivers

There are numerous job opportunities in Alberta for construction workers from all disciplines and market sectors. It is also an environment where you can earn more money, be at the cutting edge of innovation and be highly valued as a skilled professional. At the same time, it is a well-regulated environment for supporting and protecting workers, with strong ties between the trade unions, industry associations and business owners.

"There's so much work out here, you can pretty much pick where you want to work."





Becoming a construction worker in Alberta

Working in Alberta

Alberta, in conjunction with industry, sets standards for all trades to ensure the quality of work is high and that health and safety is a priority. Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training is responsible for regulating designated trade occupations in Alberta.

There are two categories:

- **Compulsory trades** such as plumbers, welders and steam-fitters.
- **Optional trades** such as carpenters, millwrights and instrument technicians.

If you wish to work in a compulsory trade, you will need to have your experience assessed by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training before arriving in Alberta. Once in Alberta, you are required to work towards attaining your trade certification within the first six months.

When you successfully pass the trade examination and receive a positive letter of declaration from your employer, you will be issued a trade certificate. Once certified, you will be eligible to apply for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) and will also be eligible for a work permit extension from the Government of Canada.

Where do I start?

Due to the strong economy in Alberta, there are a vast array of opportunities for qualified tradespeople.

Here are a few places to help you find employment as a construction worker in Alberta:

- www.albertacanada.com/construction
- www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/employment/jobpostings/main.asp
- www.alis.gov.ab.ca/employment/jobpostings/industry.asp
- www.albertacanada.com/industries/859.html
- www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca

Could this be a lifetime commitment?

This is entirely up to you. There are two types of immigration status within Canada. You can either apply as a **Temporary Foreign Worker** or apply for **Permanent Resident Status**. Many people who come to Alberta as a temporary foreign worker go on to obtain permanent resident status in due course.

Working in Alberta as a Temporary Foreign Worker

Many employers are seeking overseas workers to supplement their teams. With the huge growth in the economy, there is a shortage of skilled workers. Once companies have demonstrated that they cannot recruit sufficient Alberta workers, they are free to seek employees from abroad. To find out more about living and working in Alberta, visit: www.AlbertaCanada.com/immigration.



General websites

General information on immigration to Alberta:

www.AlbertaCanada.com/immigration

Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program:

www.AlbertaCanada.com/ainp

Work permit application forms and visa information:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/missions.asp

Countries and territories requiring visas:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp

Medical examination requirements:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/medical/medexams-temp.asp

Jobs in Alberta (provincial website):

www.alis.gov.ab.ca/jobseeker

Working in a trade:

www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca/working_in_alberta

Construction websites

Alberta Building Trades Council:

www.albertabuildingtrades.com

Construction Owners Association of Alberta (COAA):

www.coaa.ab.ca

Canadian Welding Association:

www.cwa-acs.org

Alberta Construction Association (ACA):

www.abconst.org

Calgary Construction Association (CCA):

www.cca.cc

Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC):

www.clac.ca/index.asp

Construction Labour Relations Alberta (CLRA):

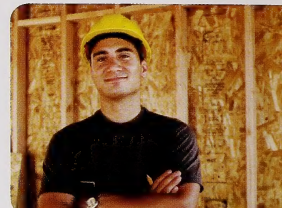
www.clra.org

Edmonton Construction Association (EAC):

www.edmca.com

Merit Contractors Association:

www.meritalberta.com



For further information contact:

Alberta Foreign Worker Hotline

Phone: (001) 780 427 6419

E-mail: immigration.info@gov.ab.ca

Web: www.AlbertaCanada.com/construction



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